

REMARKS

Please make the amendments herein prior to examination.

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank Examiner Swann for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference call of May 16, 2001. During the conference Examiner Swann attempted to help interpret the comments of the Advisory Action.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants wish to request clarification based on the Advisory Action in response to Applicants' Amendment after Final. The Advisory Action indicates that the words "through a multi-client manager unit" does not necessarily equate to "to a manager". Applicants respectfully request clarification since the meaning of the words "manager unit" and "manager" are one and the same. Applicants have amended Claim 1, not to overcome prior rejections, but to clarify that the multi-client manager unit provides the various data and selectable information. The Advisory Action also indicates that the Applicants are missing some of the teachings of the Ellison reference by reading it only in light of the Examiner's comments. If this is the case, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify which teachings in Ellison are being missed by Applicants.

To the extent necessary, Applicant also petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.13(a) for a period of three (3) months. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees pursuant to the attached CPA transmittal.

Also, attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to Claims 1 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned: "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a conference would expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

What is claimed is:

1. (Four Times Amended) A method for providing updated digital signature key pairs in a public key system comprising the steps of:

providing, [through]by a multi-client manager unit, selectable digital signature expiry data including at least public verification key expiry data, and selectable private signing key expiry data, that are selectable on a per client basis wherein the digital signature key pairs are not shared among users;

digitally storing both selected public key expiry data and selected private key expiry data for association with a new digital signature key pair; and

associating the stored selected expiry data with the new digital signature key pair to affect a transition from an old digital signature key pair to a new digital signature key pair.